

CABINET

DATE OF MEETING:	4 NOVEMBER 2021
TITLE OF REPORT:	NEXT STEPS IN THE CIVIC QUARTER REGENERATION
Report of:	Joint Chief Executive
Cabinet Portfolio:	Deputy Leader and Finance & Corporate Services
Key Decision	No
Confidentiality	Non Exempt

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet with regards to the work being undertaken by the Civic Quarter Regeneration Work Group and seek Cabinet's approval to further funding to enable the next stages, as proposed, around public engagement.

2 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That 24K is allocated in the council 21/22 budget, to fund consultancy costs, and other resource requirements (website, publications, media and analysis) to enable an effective public engagement with regard to the Civic Quarter.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In July 2021, a report was made to Cabinet on the progress regarding the Civic Quarter Regeneration to date. Having established a firm foundation of knowledge recognising the ambitions and aims for a civic quarter regeneration, it was acknowledged that the financial and economic environment had changed since the Working Group was established in 2019.
- 3.2 Based in this Cabinet agreed a refreshed governance approach for the Civic Quarter Regeneration Group which included enhanced local representation from Ward Members.
- 3.3 This Cross Party Group, with representatives from Fleet Town Council and Hampshire County Council met on the 18th October 2021. Their key focus was on next steps and (as will be noted from the minutes of that meeting in Appendix 1) how best to engage with our residents to garner their views on what they would like to see as part of a civic regeneration opportunity.
- 3.4 The engagement as proposed will be both face to face – with a display to be hosted in The Harlington, as well as on-line opportunities to provide views.

4 CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Hart does not have the inhouse resources or capacity to undertake the work as outlined by the Civic Quarter Regeneration Group.
- 4.2 The Working Group indicated a desire to have the display accompanied by an officer, to both explain the engagement and capture (via questionnaire or alternative means) the feedback. At present we have no capacity within the organisation so additional resources will be required. The costs associated with this could be reduced if Councillors or key partners to this project (notably Hampshire County Council and Fleet Town Council) were able to provide some support on this ambition.
- 4.3 In addition to the above mentioned resource requirements, resources will also be required for compilation and analysis of responses provided, either from face to face interaction or via our website.
- 4.4 In total it is anticipated that £24K is allocated to this engagement, enabling effective and timely decisions to be taken on the best mechanisms and approaches, whilst recognising any underspend will be returned to reserves.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 5.1 Not to undertake the work.
This does not meet with the Councils Corporate Plan objectives, nor Cabinet's earlier resolution to explore the opportunities with regards to a civic quarter regeneration
- 5.2 To undertake the work in house.
The Council has the capability but not the capacity to complete this work. If Cabinet wishes this work to be undertaken within existing resources, it will need to be considered as part of the 2022/2023 Service Plan approach with work beginning on this initiative from April 2022.

6 RELEVANCE TO THE CORPORATE PLAN AND/OR THE HART VISION 2040

- 6.1 This work will assist the council in achieving its agreed objective of exploring a civic quarter regeneration.

7 SERVICE PLAN

Is the proposal identified in the Service Plan?	No
Is the proposal being funded from current budgets?	No
Have staffing resources already been identified and set aside for this proposal?	No

8 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is estimated that the cost of the next stages in the civic quarter regeneration, the engagement of our residents with regards to this site, will cost £24K.

9 EQUALITIES

- 9.1 No equality issues resulting from approval of this reports recommendation have been identified. Opportunities for face to face or on-line engagement provides greater flexibility and accessibility for those with protected characteristics.

10 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 It is anticipated that members of the public would provide their feedback via the face to face display, when already in town for other reasons (shopping, visiting the library or other event at The Harlington) and in so doing, not cause any additional impact to the environment. We will also be encouraging our residents to engage on-line.

11 ACTION

- 11.1 Subject to agreement by Cabinet, it will be recorded that an exemption has been applied for the continued use of HLM Consultants, and the Council will confirm their continued role on this project
- 11.2 Work will also begin on the online resources which will help support effective public engagement and the analysis framework to ensure the Civic Quarter Regeneration Working Group will be provided with a clear indication of the public's views.

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Appendices: None**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	None							

Background papers: None

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CIVIC CAMPUS REGENERATION GOVERNANCE Cabinet 1 st July 2021							
MINUTES OF CIVIC QUARTER REGENERATION Cabinet 4 th February 2021 Cabinet 4 th March 2021 Cabinet 1 st April 2021							

Appendix 1

Civic Quarter Regeneration Meeting (Teams) 18 October 2021 – 09:00

Attendees: Cllr Mark Butcher; Cllr Anne Crampton; Cllr David Neighbour;
Cllr Richard Quarterman; Cllr James Radley (Chairman);
Gabrielle Ellen; Emma Foy; Patricia Hughes; Daryl Phillips;
Joanne Rayne; Rebecca Borrett (Minutes)

Olivia Paine HLM Architects
Cllr Bob Schofield Fleet Town Council
Elizabeth Weighill Hampshire County Council (Library Service)

Apologies: None received

1	Welcome from the Chairman	
	Councillor Radley welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of today's meeting is to establish where we are at with the Civic Quarter Regeneration as it has been some time since the last meeting.	
2	Introductions	
	The group members introduced themselves and welcomed Elizabeth Weighill (Liz) who is representing the Library Service.	
3	Presentation by Gabrielle Ellen	
	<p>GE provided a summary of the actions previously taken and already reported back to the group. She further explained the options to be explored for engaging with community, and further work to be taken to explore further options.</p> <p>RQ clarified this project does not form part of the Commercialisation Portfolio he is responsible for which generates income as this project is not expected to do that. It needs to ensure the project generates some kind of income, there is no target or threshold, but it cannot lose HDC money.</p> <p>MB asked if there is a defined time limit for not losing money. EF explained this is in the commercialisation strategy approved in July.</p> <p>MB asked if the impact of Covid has been taken into account. OP confirmed it was but would need updating and reflection of actual needs once known. PH explained HDC now have agile working policy and the results of staff survey would soon be known to help shape this moving forwards.</p>	
4	FUTURE OF THE PROJECT/NEXT STAGES	

	<p>The group discussed the importance of understanding what the public feel is the correct vision and ambition for the town.</p> <p>RQ expressed concern engaging with the public when the commercial aspects had not agreed, which could prevent the project being deliverable. The group agreed it was important engagement messaging made clear this represented potential options, not decision taken.</p> <p>MB asked if there were any known blockers to the success of the project. EF explained managing the commercial expectations and negotiations would be critical to success. LW confirmed the Library Service were very keen to work with the partners to provide a service that balances a presence with online services, alongside other opportunities like learning.</p> <p>OP suggested a starting point for public engagement was to present the public with the critical success factors that had been previously designed. This would include engaging with the public on key fundamental issues of what is important in this project. Future stages can then be shown to be driven by this.</p> <p>Alongside this, conversations with the public on what their vision of a library or the Harlington Centre, and open public spaces in a post Covid world could look like, enabled a public lead for the project.</p> <p>BS informed the group feedback to FTC questioned why it was not a Fleet Town Regeneration, utilising Hart Shopping Centre. JR and DN advised previous conversations with the UK agents had proven difficult for Fleet Bid.</p> <p>The group discussed possible time frames in view of upcoming panto season and a period of purdah. It was agreed this would therefore take place in January/February 2022.</p> <p>There was a discussion around resources available for moving this forward, and who would be doing this.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public engagement in the Harlington Centre, designed to encourage dialogue around the architect suggestions • Operate a parallel online version of the above for full inclusivity • Engagement with stakeholders • Check procurement regulations to make sure comply with standing orders for engagement 	<p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>TBC</p> <p>EF</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of resources available from existing capacity and workloads • Cabinet paper to be prepared to bring into the open • A further study into some of the elements to ensure meaningful discussion of what we mean, and what this potentially looks like 	EF DP OP
4.	AOB	
	<p>(MB) felt solid communication of how this is being funded and paid for needs to be fed back to the community and needs to be transparent and honest regarding public finance.</p> <p>(DN) suggested the date of next meeting needed to be before January/February consultations commence.</p> <p>(JR) asked everyone listed in the agenda receive an invite to the meeting, as he believed Councillor Katies Davies had not been included on the invite list for today.</p> <p>(BS) advised FTC have identified there are many people new to the Fleet area who are not aware of recent history relevant to this project, and it was important to be aware of this when regard to the information to be sent. (OP) agreed and explained the key to public consultation is showing options and asking them to prioirtise the aspects of the project most important to them as an individual. JR suggested it would be helpful to have something to comment on for the next meeting, OP will send a proposal within the next month.</p>	OP
5.	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting is to be arranged for a Monday morning in early December	
	Meeting ended at 10:08am	